

New Shoreham Recreation Board
Tuesday, February 28, 2012
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Road
8:15 a.m.

Present: Chair John Cullen, Members Ann Hall, Sarah Sue Cook, Alternates Christopher Willi and Paul Henshaw. **Absent:** Gail Heinz and Tim Clark. Also present were Recreation Director Robert Closter, Town Manager Nancy Dodge, Highways Supervisor Mike Shea and, for the recording of minutes, Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes.

Chair John Cullen called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Approve minutes for December 20, 2011

A motion was made by Ms. Hall and seconded by Mr. Willi to approve the minutes of December 20, 2011 as amended. The motion carried with all in favor.

5 Ayes (Cullen, Willi, Hall, Cook, Henshaw) 0 Nays 2 Absent (Clark, Heinz)

Welcome new member – Paul Henshaw

Mr. Cullen welcomed new member Paul Henshaw and thanked him for his participation.

Budget discussion

Recreation Director Closter reviewed the Recreation Department budget that was submitted to the Town Manager, highlighting the following:

- The total budget request is \$230,820, an increase of \$3,581 over last year.
- The budget increase is to cover sports camps.
- The winter programming participant numbers are lower, as there is a declining population at the school; though the percentage of participation is higher.
- The budget represents using synthetic fertilizer on Heinz Field. If organics must be used, the cost will go up by \$6,000.

Heinz Field maintenance plan

Director Closter stated that he had come up with three plans to address Heinz Field maintenance:

1. Status quo – Highways department employee addressing the maintenance. Ms. Hall stated that this situation has not been a workable solution. Town Manager Dodge stated that such a situation may work with the right employee. Director Closter suggested making the position more attractive by offering housing or increasing the pay.
2. Subcontracting – Subcontracting a person/firm to address the maintenance. Mr. Willi was in favor of this option.
3. Additional employee – Hire an additional employee in the Recreation Department to handle all field maintenance and fill-in in other capacities. Ms. Dodge stated that there was no room in the budget for an additional employee on the payroll.

Town Manager Dodge reported that Heinz Field mowing is currently included in the upcoming mowing bid, but may be removed.

Discussion ensued regarding the adequate level of field maintenance required. Mr. Willi stated that such standards should be agreed upon by all of the parties involved.

Highways Supervisor Shea stated that it was impossible to keep up with the needed weeding maintenance in the infield and walking paths with the use of organic weed controller.

After discussion, Mr. Willi made a motion to request that the Block Island Land Trust agenda a request from the Rec. Board to allow the use of synthetic herbicide on the infields and walking paths only, on a trial basis, while using organic fertilizer on the rest of the field. Ms. Hall seconded the motion and it carried.

5 Ayes (Cullen, Willi, Hall, Cook, Henshaw) 0 Nays 2 Absent (Clark, Heinz)

Clerk McGinnes will write a letter to the Land Trust, cc'ed to the Town Council, spelling out the request and asking that it be placed on their next agenda.

The Rec. members thanked both Nancy Dodge and Mike Shea for their attendance and input.

Other Business

Mr. Cullen explained that they selected an appropriate location at Heinz Field to construct the skating rink. Unfortunately this year it proved to warm to set it up.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Hall made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willi and passed unanimously.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved: March 20, 2012